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Police Say Local Arrests Nixon Plot Discovery Aid

Five-Week Investigation Spurs Police Move

By JOHN LaPLACE

A police source said Wednesday the arrest of 15 persons Saturday by the New Orleans Police Department "helped to uncover the conspiracy" alleged to have existed to assassinate President Nixon.

However, Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso and Donald Moore, special-agent-in-charge of the FBI office here, would comment neither on whether the arrests uncovered the conspiracy nor on whether those arrested could be linked to the Black Liberation Army.

Giarrusso did say the arrests were the result of a "five-week-long intensive investigation.

He also said the investigation is continuing and that he would comment when it is completed.

San Francisco police, who are in New Orleans investigating a link between some of the 15 persons arrested here Saturday and a 1971 attack on a police station there, said New Orleans police said the 11 men and four women arrested Saturday were members or associates of the Black Liberation Army.

Giarrusso would not comment on whether the 1' persons arrested Saturday were members or associates of the BLA, or whether the BLA was being investigated in connection with the alleged conspiracy.

Previously, The Times-Picayune learned through New Mexico Secret Service sources that the investigation into the alleged conspiracy centered on a militant black nationalist group.

In letters to San Francisco newspapers, the BLA took credit for an Aug. 29, 1971 police station raid in which Sgt. John V. Young, 51, was killed by a shotgun blast, Lt. Charles Ellis of the San Francisco police said Tuesday.

Some weapons seized in the New Orleans arrests were traced to San Francisco, Ellis said.

The 15 arrests in New Orleans resulted from surveillance of Ruben Boris Scott, who was wanted as a fugitive from two bank robberies, armed robbery and attempted murder, New Orleans police said.

Surveillance of Scott resulted in the exposure of other persons involved in crimes both "related and unrelated to Scott's movements," police said.

The five-week investigation of Scott apparently began about two weeks before the announcement of Nixon's Aug. 20 visit to New Orleans for an address to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention.

Charges against the 15 persons include armed robbery, attempted murder, resisting arrest and possession of heroin and marijuana, police said.

New Orleans police have also issued an all points bulletin for four othes who eluded the Saturday roundup Ellis said.